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EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER

Flying Flag Shows Unity

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WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION

On World Affairs?

"I URGE THE UNITED STATES government to make plans to encourage Americans to display the flag on holidays. What is your opinion on this important subject?"

(Raymond J. Vince, East Chicago, Ind.)



I favor anything that will show the world that we stand by our basic values and will not yield to Communist pressure. Yet this is not a NATIONAL, but an international fight. Showing the flag should never be allowed to legitimize a totally obsolete notion of neo-isolationism, "going it alone," or "fortress America." For any of these can lead only to disaster.

★ ★

AN ANONYMOUS LETTER posted in Green castle, Ind. accuses me of "lack of education" in relation to my unfavorable comments on the Black Muslims of the United States, and suggests that I look with disfavor on the growth of nationalism. I certainly do. Particularly in countries which lack the military and economic means of viability and must rely upon outside countries both for economic development and military protection. The best that can be said of extreme nationalism, in Africa or anywhere else, is that it is obsolete.

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"AFTER ALL THIS TALK, I AM still confused: Who in our government was ultimately responsible for our calling off the American air cover over the Cuban liberation force which failed?"

(J.F.B., Philadelphia, Pa.)

Ultimately, the President of course. But despite denials I still believe that the decisive argument against our participation came from Ambassador Stevenson and the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations.

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"WHY DID MRS. KENNEDY ASK the lady guests at the Mount Vernon party for President Asif of Pakistan to wear short evening dresses while she herself wore a long evening gown?"

("Puzzled guest," Washington, D.C.)

You've got me. And I just cannot consider our first lady's choice of clothes as a vital factor in world affairs, not even at a party given for a visiting chief of state.

"DO YOU HOLD ALLEN DULLES of the CIA responsible for the Cuban fiasco?"
 (R. McS., Albany, N.Y.)

Formally, of course, since he was boss. But the most directly responsible for what even bad intelligence was given would seem to be Robert Amory, the CIA deputy director for intelligence, who is notorious in Washington for his reputed "soft line" toward the Communist offensive.

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TO THE QUESTION: "In case the USSR or its East German puppet again cuts off communications with West Berlin, what should the Western Big Three do?" I have a number of interesting answers, all favoring positive action to break the blockade.

For instance, Harry F. Spicer of Clark, N.J. writes that the United States should (a) break off diplomatic and cultural relations with the USSR; (b) establish and recognize governments-in-exile of the captive European nations; (c) blockade Cuba, preferably through the O.A.S. and (d) threaten Moscow with total war unless it reopens the communications promptly.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: In case Communist Gizenga of Stanleyville in the former Belgian Congo persists in maintaining his pro-Russian rule over part of that country, should the United States act independently of the United Nations?